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Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 24 March 2017

34/17. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and subsequent Assembly resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, the latest being resolution 63/170 of 18 December 2008,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993 and subsequent Commission resolutions on this regard, and Human Rights Council resolutions 6/20 of 28 September 2007, 12/15 of 1 October 2009, 18/14 of 29 September 2011, 24/19 of 27 September 2013 and 30/3 of 1 October 2015,

Bearing in mind paragraph 5 (h) of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly decided that the Council should work in close cooperation with regional organizations,

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, which reiterates, inter alia, the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Reaffirming the fact that regional arrangements play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by Governments in the establishment of regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, and their achievements in all regions of the world;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection

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of human rights,[1] held on 4 and 5 October 2016 in Geneva, including its conclusions and recommendations;

3. *Further welcomes* the holding of the meetings of focal points for cooperation between United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, and takes note with appreciation of their outcomes;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the progress towards the implementation of its resolution 30/3 of 1 October 2015 as described in the report of the High Commissioner, and encourages the regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and other organizations, such as the International Organization of la Francophonie, to continue to enhance their cooperation;

5. *Also notes with appreciation* the critical role played by the Office of the High Commissioner in advancing cooperation between international and regional human rights mechanisms;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the resources necessary to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to support the above-mentioned activities appropriately, in particular the annual meetings of the regional mechanisms' focal points for cooperation;

7. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to expand its cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms by creating, as of 2018, a dedicated programme for the said mechanisms to gain experience in the United Nations human rights system in order to enhance capacity-building and cooperation among them;

8. *Requests* the High Commissioner to hold, in 2019, a workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights to take stock of developments since the workshop held in 2016, including a thematic discussion on the role of regional arrangements in the combat against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and in the implementation of the commitments in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, based on concrete and practical experience of regional mechanisms, in order to share information on best practices, lessons learned and possible new forms of cooperation, with the participation of relevant experts from international, regional, subregional and interregional human rights mechanisms, as well as Members States, observers, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations;

9. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to present to the Human Rights Council, at its forty-third session, a report containing a summary of the discussions held at the above-mentioned workshop and the progress towards the implementation of the present resolution.

57th meeting
24 March 2017

[Adopted without a vote.]

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[1] A/HRC/34/23.